

1. In a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, a method for determining if an attachment is to be deleted in response to a deletion command requesting deletion of a corresponding electronic message, the method comprising:

an act of receiving a body portion of an electronic message;

an act of receiving an attachment associated with the electronic message;

an act of receiving a delete command requesting deletion of the electronic message;

an act of deleting the electronic message in accordance with the received delete command; and

an act of referring to a data field of the attachment to determine if the attachment is to be deleted.

2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving a body portion of an electronic message comprises an act of receiving a body portion of an electronic message wherein the body portion is included in an electronic message selected from among an electronic mail message, an instant message, a fax message, a news group posting, a voice message, and a blog entry.

3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving a body portion of an electronic message comprises an act of receiving a body portion of an electronic message, the electronic message being defined in accordance with one or more extension schemas.

4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving an attachment associated with the electronic message comprises an act of receiving an attachment that was included in the electronic message.

5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving an attachment associated with the electronic message comprises an act of receiving an attachment that includes an attachment metadata field, the attachment metadata field storing message related data associated with the electronic message such that if the electronic message is deleted message related data associated the electronic message can nonetheless be returned in response to a query.

6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving an attachment associated with the electronic message comprises an act of receiving an attachment that includes an IsPinned field, the value stored in the IsPinned field indicating if the attachment is coupled to the electronic message.

7. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

an act of storing the electronic message and the body portion in a message silo of a database, the electronic message and body portion being stored along with one or more other message items defined in accordance with a message schema;

an act of storing the attachment in a silo of the database; and

an act of maintaining a link between the attachment and the electronic message.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of receiving a delete command requesting deletion of the electronic message comprises an act of receiving a delete command that originated at a user message application.

9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of deleting the electronic message in accordance with the received delete command comprises an act of deleting the electronic message and the body portion from a message silo of a database.

10. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein that act of referring to a data field of the attachment to determine if the attachment is to be deleted comprises an act of referring to the value of an IsPinned field to determine if the attachment is coupled to the electronic message.

11. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of referring to an act of referring to a data field of the attachment to determine if the attachment is to be deleted comprises an act of determining that the attachment is not to be deleted.

12. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the act of referring to an act of referring to a data field of the attachment to determine if the attachment is to be deleted comprises an act of determining that the attachment is to be deleted.

13. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
an act of deleting the attachment from a silo of a database.

14. In a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, a method for identifying an attachment in response to a message related query, the method comprising:

an act of receiving a query for message related data that satisfies query criteria;

an act of identifying an attachment that satisfies the query criteria notwithstanding that an electronic message associated with the attachment was deleted prior to receiving the query; and

an act of returning at least a link to the attachment in response to the query.

15. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of receiving a query for message related data that satisfies query criteria comprises an act of receiving a query that originated at a user message application.

16. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of identifying an attachment that satisfies the query criteria comprises an act of identifying a message attachment that includes an attachment metadata field, the attachment metadata field storing message related data that corresponds to the deleted electronic message associated with the attachment such that the corresponding message related can be returned in response to a query.

17. The method as recited in claim 16, wherein that act of identifying a message attachment that includes an attachment metadata field comprises an act of comparing values of one or more query criteria to values stored in the attachment metadata field.

18. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of returning at least a link to the attachment in response to the query comprises an act of returning a link that can be represented by an icon or hyperlink at a use message application.

19. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the act of returning at least a link to the attachment in response to the query comprises an act of returning the attachment in response to the query.

20. A computer program product for use in a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, the computer program product for implementing a method for determining if an attachment is to be deleted in response to a deletion command requesting deletion of a corresponding electronic message, the computer program product comprising one or more computer-readable media having stored thereon computer executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system to perform the following:

- receive a body portion of an electronic message;
- receive an attachment associated with the electronic message;
- receive a delete command requesting deletion of the electronic message;
- delete the electronic message in accordance with the received delete command; and
- refer to a data field of the attachment to determine if the attachment is to be deleted.

21. A computer program product for use in a computer system that is network connectable along with one or more other computer systems to a network, the computer program product for implementing a method for identifying an attachment in response to a message related query, the computer program product comprising one or more computer-readable media having stored thereon computer executable instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the computer system to perform the following:

receive a query for message related data that satisfies query criteria;

identify an attachment that satisfies the query criteria notwithstanding that an electronic message associated with the attachment was deleted prior to receiving the query; and

return at least a link to the attachment in response to the query.